



The national resource for the support of children who are caring for chronically ill, injured, elderly, or disabled family members.

Community Recognition



Dr. Connie Siskowski and Helen Babione. Photo by Barbara McCormick

This year's Brunch event recognized community role model extraordinaire, Helen Babione, Scott Singer, Mayor of the City of Boca Raton named the day for her. County Commissioner Robert Weinroth presented Helen with an Appreciation Award. We also celebrated the success of caregiving youth in school. Three caregiving youth shared their stories, with support these students have a greater than 97 percent graduation rate.

Over the past two decades, Dr. Connie Siskowski has served as the presiding voice and founder of what became the American Association of Caregiving Youth. AACY's mission is to increase awareness for youth caregivers and their families by connecting them with healthcare, education and community resources.

The only national data reported in 2005 that there are at least 1.3-1.4 million caregiving children ages 8-18 years old in the U.S. Of these, 38% provide care for a grandparent and 34% provide care for a parent. Because of these responsibilities, caregiving youth often face difficulties in school. In fact, 22% of young adults who left high school said they dropped out to care for a family member. Their lives transform with recognition and support in and out of school and at home.

Welcome Pam Perrin



Our new Chief Operating Officer

Pam joined the American Association in May as Chief Operating Officer. She was previously with the George Snow Scholarship Fund for 12 years as Vice President of Scholar Services and Director of Development. Pam was instrumental in the leadership of scholarship administration as well as an expert on the displacement of students at their institutions. She contributed to a white paper on the "Impact of Award Displacement on Students". Pam graduated from Berkeley in New Jersey.

In The News And Raising Awareness

(Palm Beach County)
The Educational Network

(National)
Addiction Professional



Pictured above are the caregiving students that shared their stories, Shadaira, Julianna, and Daniel, with Michelle Dolan, Director of the Caregiving Youth Project.

Upcoming Events

August 14 Boca Chamber Festival
Days BINGO night

October 4 Annual Hearts &
"Soles" Gala with a Casino theme

**Call 561.391.7401 for more
details**

AACY Board News



Joe Pores

AACY Board Director Joseph Pores received the South Florida Sun Sentinel's Excalibur Award as business leader of the year in Palm Beach County.

One night Joe was caring for his seriously ill mother, Joyce, he tried to reach her doctor one night when she was having troubled breathing. He got a message saying, "The office is closed."

Pores decided that this health care industry problem needed fixing. So two years after his mother died, in 1997, he and his brother-in-law Nicholas Koutrakos began Call 4 Health, a physicians' answering service. Stella Pores, also got involved, and manages employee training.

[Read the whole article here](#)

New Board Director Jeff Gordan, Esq.



Jeff Gordon, Esq.

Jeffrey f. Gordon was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Political Science. Jeff then attended the University of Florida School of Law earning his J.D. degree. Currently Jeff's practice focuses on personal injury and wrongful death litigation.

Resource Partners



Jeff and Susan Firestone generously donated scholarship money to this year's graduating seniors.



Thank you to Newell Brands for providing Oster® Blend-N-Go® MyBlend® Blender (Oster.com) to our 2019 caregiving youth graduates at their graduation celebration.

[Newell brands](#)



Thank you to Strikes@Boca for providing decorations and paper products for the graduation celebration.

[Strikes](#)



Thank you to Healthier Boynton

Outside of work, Jeff is active in the community. He has been a licensed foster parent since 2010, enjoys basketball, playing guitar and being an adjunct Professor at Florida Atlantic University.

Thank You



Dick and Barbara Schmidt

The Schmidt Family Foundation seeks to be responsive to programs that will nurture and strengthen the community.

The Schmidt Family Foundation has supported AACY since the beginning of the Caregiving Youth Project. It also provided money for the Caregiving Youth Institute.

AACY is very grateful to be the recipient of grant from the Schmidt Family Foundation.

<http://schmidtfamilyfoundation.org/>



Robert Campbell

AACY would like to thank Bobby Campbell for making a donation to enable AACY to build a ramp for one of our caregiving youth families. This ramp will greatly assist the family in helping their growing daughter who is disabled to get in and out of the home.

"BBC International designs, sources, and sells licensed and in-house owned brands of footwear globally to major retailers, distributors, and multi-door independents. Through a best in class team, powerful supply chain, and robust brand portfolio, BBC has serviced its customers for decades."

Robert B. Campbell, Chairman and CEO

<http://www.bbcint.com/>

Caregiving Youth Institute Conference

The third CYI Conference was an opportunity for professionals and the public to learn more about the challenges of caregiving youth and how to support them.

Beach for delicious sandwiches for the caregiving youth and their families.

Healthier Together



Thank you to the Helping Hands Group for the wonderful desserts.

It takes a community to support and achieve success with the next generation of leaders, caregivers, and good citizens. Thank you to all of our supporters, volunteers, and community partners who each have played a part in getting the students in our CYP program to GRADUATION!

You shop. Amazon Gives



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support AACY by selecting it as your charitable organization. Sign up today at smile.amazon.com

Resource Book

Available through [Amazon](#) and [Rosen Publishing](#)



The Conference was held from 8 am to 3 pm on April 4th at the Safe Schools Institute in Boca Raton for about 150 attendees.

There was a wide range of topics including presentations on youth caregiving and the opioid crises, medication administration and management by youth, school culture in support of youth caregivers, adverse childhood experiences and building resiliency, parent's perspectives of their children in this role, and workforce development. The lunchtime keynote speaker is award-winning film maker, Lindsay Van Dyke of Vice News on HBO, whose story about an AACY youth caregiver and his family has had more than three million views on all social media channels.

